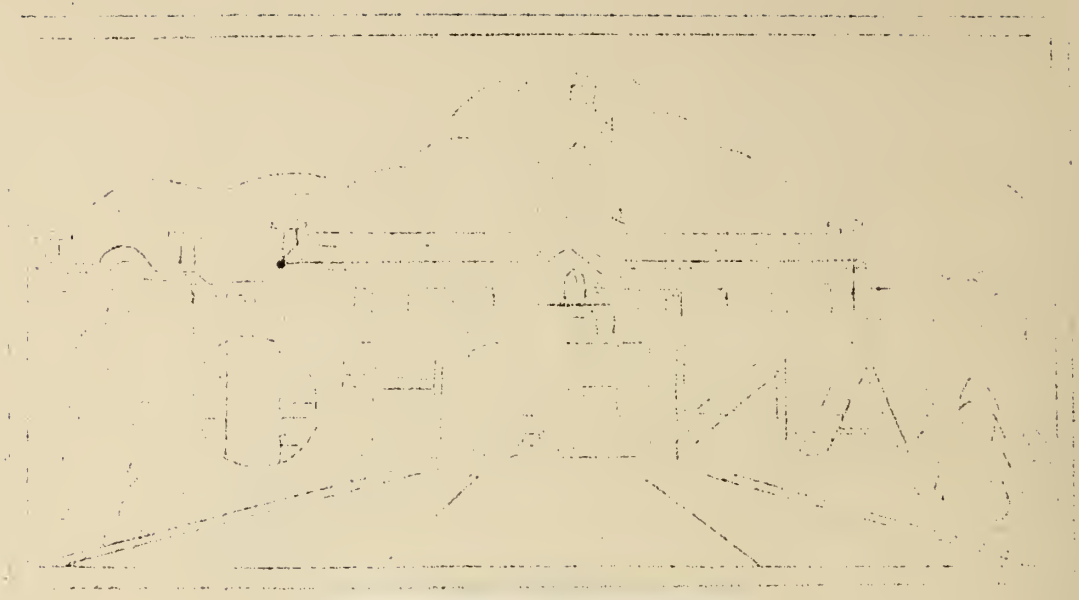
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER ISSUE OF

THE ANECHO

Prepared by

THE STUDENTS OF THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL

Victoria, B.C., 1938.



UNIVERSITY
OF VICTORIA
LIBRARY

E D I T O R I A L

We suppose that for a first issue we should treat our readers to a somewhat spectacular display of the manner in which great publications, upon their inception, run up mastheads and then proceed to nail thereunder the irrevocable policies to which they dedicate their existence. The promulgation of this supposition, accompanied by considerable strain to the S-R bonds and no little damage to the neural connections as a whole, forces upon us the realization that we have no policy unless it be that of recording some of the activities and opinions of the Provincial Normal School community of which you are a member.

Both in and out of school events, which will materially affect the lives of all of us, have occurred in the past few weeks. We feel that the reactions of those whom these events will affect are worthy of record, and for this reason we welcome all expression of student opinion.

To our contributors and to those who have assisted in bringing this issue to its final form - Dr. Anderson, Miss Pottinger and Dr. Denton, in particular - we feel that we owe a tribute of appreciation for this publication. We are very grateful for their assistance.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/anecho1938uvic

LITERARY SOCIETY

Students assembled in the auditorium on Friday afternoon, September 16th, for the first meeting of the Literary Society. Dr. Denton outlined the purposes of the Society and occupied the chair while elections were in progress. Events have since justified the somewhat blind nominations and voting which gave us our student leaders.

The results of this election were as follows:- Harry Gibb, President; Helen McKinnon, Vice-President; Doris Ayliffe, Secretary. Class representatives were:- Isobel Monroe, Class A; Gladys Staverman, Class B; Archibald Mercer, Class C.

The weekly programmes presented by the Society on Friday afternoons have supplied a variety of material for the education and entertainment of the students. To date they have been composed of such items as music, news bulletins, short talks, recitations, general discussion and a Professor Quiz programme.

Students contributing to the musical portions of the programmes were: Misses Patricia Comerford, Doris Ayliffe, and Messrs. Roy Plater and George Cull. News bulletins were given by Miss Joyce Butlin, and Messrs. Kenneth Wellwood, George Cull and Archibald Mercer. Interesting short talks on topics ranging from home-towns to sport subjects were given by Misses Lillian Cowie, Mary Frost, Lois Thompson, Helen McKinnon and Messrs. Brian Burke, Melville McMechan, Colby Aikins and Gordon Hartley. Novelty readings and a recitation were presented by Miss Gladys Staverman and Miss Winnifred Jardine.

One meeting was entirely devoted to a general discussion on "Canada's Status in the Event of War". This was of great interest owing to the pertinence of the recent European crisis, and provoked some lively discussion. A source of considerable enjoyment was the Professor Quiz programme conducted by Mr. Raymond Duncan.

The Committee of the Literary Society appreciates the enthusiasm and co-operation of the Faculty and the students in making these programmes a success. Future programmes should prove still more enjoyable and profitable as offers have been received to present debates, plays and puppet shows in the near future.

DRAMATIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY

At the first general assembly of the School on Friday, September 16th, the executive of the Debating and Dramatic Society was chosen as follows:-- Raymond Duncan, Victoria, President; Joyce Sutherland, Salmon Arm, Vice-President; and Edna Bush, Nelson, Secretary-Treasurer.

On September 19th the Society held its first meeting. There was a large attendance and great enthusiasm was shown. It was decided that the School be divided into four groups. Each group would be responsible for putting on a play during the Fall term. The leaders were chosen: Helen Christie, Joyce Sutherland, Austin Aikins and Melville McMechan. It was decided that this Society should register with the Department of University Extension.

Each group immediately went to work to find a play which would suit its particular talents. A catalogue of plays, compiled by Miss Somerset of the University Extension Department, was received. Six plays were chosen from the list.

Miss Christie's group chose Mr. Ozeroff as their director. This group is now busily working on the play "Six Who Passed While the Lentils Boil". Judging by the excellent talent in the group, the outcome should be very gratifying.

Miss Sutherland is the director of another group. She is assisted by Mr. Haynes. They have chosen the play "The Rehearsal" for production. This group boasts the largest membership, so we can expect a great deal from them.

Mr. Aikins is the director of the third group, and his assistant is Miss McLeary. The energetic way in which this group went ahead and chose their play is commendable. They were the first to get really organized, choose their play and their castings - so here's to you, Mr. Aikins. This group is doing the garden scene from "Twelfth Night".

Mr. McMechan is the director of the last group. They are producing "Evening Dress Indispensable". This is the smallest group in the School, but they have what it takes to prove the saying, "Quality not quantity, is what counts."

We are looking forward to some enjoyable performances from these different groups. Every student in the School should seize any opportunity he or she gets to take part in these performances.

ATHLETICS

Tennis - Despite the shortness of the season, students enjoyed many exciting tennis matches, the continued fine weather favouring this and other outdoor sports. Saturdays, as a rule, found the courts well filled, players including representatives of all three classes as well as an occasional member of the staff. Mr. Gough, in particular, has a reputation for playing a "cagy" game.

Grass Hockey - Under the able direction of Miss Hinton and Mr. English this game has become deservedly popular with practically every member of the student body, to many of whom it is quite new.

Badminton - Prospects for a busy badminton season are considered excellent. So far, however, this sport has lagged behind, but winter will soon be driving all but the most ardent of the outdoor sport fans into the gymnasium or the table tennis room.

Table Tennis - The cataclysmic descent of the teaching week interrupted the enthusiastic pursuit of a very comprehensive tournament schedule, drawn up by Paul Smith. Another system of a less cumbersome nature is to go into effect in the near future.

Men's Hiking Group - Proposed as a means of giving out-of-town students an opportunity to see some of the beauties of the country surrounding Victoria, this body received sanction from Dr. Denton, and the patronage of Mr. Gough. As a student organization it comes under the jurisdiction of the Men's Athletic Society. The first hike of the season will be held on Saturday, weather permitting.

Basketball - On Friday afternoon, October 28th, the men played their first basketball game of the season against the College in the School gymnasium. A fair-sized crowd watched the boys give the College a good, stiff game. At the end of the first half Normal School was ahead 14-10. After the first half, the College played a much faster and more effective game to make the final score 28-16 for the College. The Normal team shows much promise, however, and we hope that the next time the two teams meet our team will be victorious. Hartley was outstanding for the Normal and McEachy for the College.

THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 27TH

It was an experience we will not soon forget. Although the German tongue is unfamiliar to most of us, we had no need of the interjected English translation to enable us to feel the force and fire of Fuerher Hitler's oratory. In spite of all our distrust of Fascist propaganda and all our dislike of what Herr Hitler represents we could not, for that space of time, help being carried along on the tidal wave of his eloquence. His manner of speaking is that of the demagogue, but his oratory is such that it has a tendency to dull people's ability to think clearly. This personality is overwhelming and smothers opposition. He rouses his unthinking masses to such a pitch of excitement that they back him no matter what injustices and follies he undertakes. It is a side-light on the gullability of men that they can be so duped and swayed by the passionate fluency of one man.

For us it was a liberal education to hear the voice of the man who has set all Europe atrembling and "laid the British lion on its back" by the careful timing of his moves and the boldness of his demands. We can breathe a sigh of relief that whatever may be the disadvantages of our present form of government we are spared from brow-beating by a megalomaniac like Mussolini, or a demagogue such as Hitler.

- I.A. Munro.

INSPECTOR T.W. HALL

On Friday, October 5th, the students of the Normal School were instructively entertained by Mr. Hall, School Administrator for the Abbotsford-Sumas District. He spoke to us as a teacher with thirty-seven years' experience and outlined in a humorous manner the obstacles and problems about to confront us at the end of our year of training. He dwelt on the important requirements of a teacher in his attitude toward his pupils, the need of sympathy, tolerance and understanding in dealing with difficulties and correct personal attitudes to be able to lead the children to a socially efficient personality. Mr. Hall's lengthy experience provided him with a vast store of material to draw upon and in this manner he kept our interest at a high pitch for the 45 minutes he spent with us. We hope to hear him again.

- Winnie Jardine.

INDIA
H.G.

SIR FIROZKHAN NOON

On October 8th the student body was privileged to hear an address by the Indian High Commissioner to Great Britain. Sir Firozkhan Noon, K.C., spoke to a large audience in the ballroom of the Empress Hotel. The text of the address was an appraisal of the British regime in India. Sir Firozkhan, in concluding his speech, said of the Mother Country: "She has given us a service that we appreciate, and has turned over to us a prosperous and well-governed India."

He first stressed the high degree of civilization which existed in his country, pointing out that its culture is one of the oldest in history. He admitted that the population, even to-day, is only 10% literate, but asserted that, of this 10%, a higher proportion graduated from universities than in other countries where literacy is practically 100%.

Among the advanced democratic institutions the speaker noted:-- the system by which members of the civil service and police are recruited from the people; an excellent taxation system designed to benefit the Indian people; an educational system which, though suffering from lack of money, is making sound advances; free hospitalization for the poor; research and experimental departments in the field of agriculture, and state control of all mineral resources.

There is little truth in the talk about "general discontent with the British regime in India," Sir Firozkhan averred. "England has trained India in self government for eighty years."

- Colby Aikins.

PARODY

Lives of great men all remind us
That, when we are safely dead,
Liars, large, immense, enormous,
Will say things we never said.

- Anon.

THE SCHOOL PICNIC

The Normal School had not been in session more than two weeks before there was a school activity. This took the form of a picnic at Spoon Bay, a small beach, snug but adequate, not more than one-and-a-half miles from the Normal School.

On Friday, September 23rd, immediately after Literary Society, the student body variously and brilliantly attired walked down Lansdowne Rd. to Spoon Bay. After supplies had been deposited on the beach, the boys sawed wood and built a fire, while the girls prepared food or explored the shore and rocks. Dr. Anderson revealed true Scotch fortitude by taking a dip "in the trough of the rolling sea." The rest of us, content to admire, cheered in comfort from the shore.

As soon as the fire had progressed beyond the purely optimistic stage, a committee of more or less efficient chefs officiated with the preparation of onions, weiners and coffee.

No sooner had it become dusk than the men lit a truly noble bonfire. Would that our community singing could have rivalled the enthusiasm of the glowing sparks that sailed gaily out to sea. A couple of mouth-organs and a ukelele helped the key situation to some extent.

Other attractions of the evening were roasted marshmallows, "stunts" by the three classes, stories told by Dr. Denton, Dr. Anderson and Mr. Campbell, and finally an excursion on the tide flats with Mr. English, a spade, flashlights and a collecting battle. We dug some of the less elusive clams, captured a few crabs and got our feet wet. The clams and the crabs did not get along very well together over the week-end, but that is another story.

We are indeed grateful to Dr. Denton for making this outing possible, to Mrs. Murphy, who planned the refreshments, and to the other members of the Staff whose presence and help were a decided asset.

- I.A. Munro.

HALLOWE'EN DANCE

Student "footsters" whose chorybantic revellings and terpsichorean gyrations continued with little abatement for practically four hours on the night of Thursday, October 27th, await with no little anticipation a repetition of the evening's entertainment. Much might be said of the gay spirit of the dancers and the appropriate decoration of the auditorium.

Success of the dance was due in no small measure to that able conductor, Len Acres, who seemed to be able to control his orchestra with one hand and the dance with the other. Providing a plethora of melodies of all kinds, he proved to be a veritable fountain of entertainment.

A highlight of the evening was the supper march conducted darkly through the catacombs (basement to Normal students) and accompanied by the mournful strains of The Volga Boatman. At the head of the stairs, the now famished would-be diners were greeted by a witch of horrid mien - strange introduction to an excellent supper.

The function was graced by the presence of several members of the Staff and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. H.O. English, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Gough. Critic teachers who attended were: Miss Miller, Messrs. Warnock, Harper and Roberts.

The Social Committee and Mrs. Murphy and its enthusiastic supporters are to be highly commended for the very creditable manner in which they handled the affair.

What other phenomena besides muscles work 'antagonistically' in pairs? - Any two members of the Central Committee.

Mr. Brousson has very graciously placed his car at the disposal of all or any would-be humorists (literary).

THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL VISITS THE FAIR

A bus, closely followed by many vehicles of different sizes and ages, stopped at the main entrance of the Willows Fairground. A short talk between the driver and the gatekeeper permitted the procession to move on its way, till, safe within the precincts the bus stopped and disgorged a stream of excited, eager-eyed students, whose only problem was the safekeeping of their school books. This problem was readily solved by one who suggested that they be left, fittingly enough, in the educational exhibit.

This done, Mr. English conducted us to the sheep and cattle exhibits, where ample opportunity was given for those acquainted with farm life to air their knowledge. Mr. English's commentary on the exhibits will stand many students in good stead when they are faced with a rural school next year.

The humerous varieties of sheep duly inspected and admired, we turned our attention to Herefords, Shorthorns, Aberdeen Anguses - all beef cattle, of course.

"What are shorthorns noted for?"

"They're good to eat, Sir."

- general delighted response from all within earshot.

Ayreshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein were typical dairy cattle which we observed.

We next visited the draught horses in the Horse Show Building. The beauty of the 'noble beasts' could not be missed by a horse lover. The goat exhibit displayed Saanens and Toggenburgs to a group of aspiring, perspiring, but still enthusiastic, student teachers.

OBSERVATION -

Have you noticed the topics listed for discussion in this first issue of your magazine?

With what phase or elements of teacher training do these articles deal? Can you find any evidence that the students of this School believe in an Activity Program?

- Staff Member.

SCIENCE EXCURSIONS

Our Science instructor, Mr. H.O. English, believes in taking us to the wide open spaces. "You must get all that you can by first hand observation, then search the books and illustrations for that which lies beyond."

And so we were introduced to Coastal flowers and shrubs on the Normal grounds. Then we were conducted on a tour around Lansdowne-Richmond block, where weeds, annuals, biennials and perennials have grown, do grow, and probably will continue to grow. Never, at one time, had we seen, and recognized, so many varieties of weeds!

A longer hike took us up Mount Tolmie. The A and B Classes discovered the need for proper equipment, but nevertheless voted that Mr. English be charged with all damaged silk stockings. And this despite the fine view of the surrounding country which was gratis once one reached the summit.

After inspecting the rare mineral, axonite, we started down the mountain. Mr. English nearly succeeded in losing us as he wandered through some kind of wilderness which he called a pasture. Indeed, he did manage to lose one sweet young thing from Class B.

When we returned to the School we were weary but satisfied that we had seen much to be remembered, and held the hope that we might be able to conduct as successful an excursion. This was the last trip for the Fall season, but we are all looking forward to the Spring excursions, Mr. English.

TEACHING WEEK

Perhaps the most significant result of that week of more or less successful adjustment to meet new situations, is the development of a new attitude to Normal School work and activities. It has, for most of the student body, motivated or given point ot the work on hand. Many of us now feel that at least we are aware of some of the things we need to know and that alone serves as ample justification for the arduous nature of our first week of teaching.

One is tempted to moralize on what might be termed a portentious experience - an initiation - but abler tongues and pens there a-plenty to do this. Some of its lighter aspects, however, might be mentioned in this publication.

A fairly common experience which proved disconcerting to the average novice was the reaction of the small boy at the back of the class who, after frantic handwaving, invariably declined to answer the question proposed. He would not even vouchsafe a wrong answer! One could only conclude that he was "willing."

Bragging among the students of the superlative merits of the critic teachers encountered by each individual has descended at times to the level of acrimony. Although no actual instances of fisticuffs or hairpulling on this score have yet been noticed, one concludes from the general trend of conversation that the students as a whole were very fortunate in the selection of critic teachers.

. . . Then there was the lazy little boy who was reprimanded by the far-sighted teacher (not student). She said "Johnny, don't be so lazy! You'll never get married if you continue to be so lazy!" and, turning to a little girl, "You wouldn't want to marry a lazy man, would you, dear?"

"Naw," said the sweet young thing, wrinkling her nose disdainfully, "I'm not going to get married - I'm going to be a teacher."

. . . And then there was the precocious infant who said to me with a very hurt and disillusioned air - "You're not doing this right. Miss ---- never asks us questions out of her head, she always uses a Blue Book!"

But compare this with the occasion when I taught my class the words of a song for twenty minutes, struggling desperately throughout to get the children to leave out a word which they insisted on including. All my efforts ended in failure. Only later did I discover that the oh so unnecessary word really was in the poem after all.

- Joyce Sutherland.

"What would an unenlightened native of the African Congo have in the way of previous experience to which he could tie the novel problem presented by an alarm clock?" - Hopeful sonambulist - "Trees?"

FIRST DAYS OF TEACHING

"Pop! I got you!" - a triumphant cry of roguish glee! My first situation! Dash the kid - ruffling my composure when I am with dignity making my way up the driveway to the school, where my first effort in teaching is to be. I disregard the small boy behind the tree and am thankful his toy gun is impotent.

"Good morning, little girl, will you tell me where the principal's office is, please?" I ask this of a curly-haired child at the school entrance. She answers in a sweet voice, her eyes fairly popping with curiosity as to the reason for my presence.

My companions in teaching join me and we, four men of high stance, seek the principal. He proves to be very pleasant, remarks on our size, introduces us to a staff member, who also remarks on our size, and then we meet our practice training supervisor, who also remarks on our size. We begin to believe we must be "passing" if not "divinely fair". In a few minutes, we join the student body in the assembly hall for opening exercises. The pupils remark on our size - silently, but nevertheless systematically and perceptibly. We presently go to Grade I room - then in a gasp, we, ourselves, note our size - we tower above those forty-five primary children - so wee to bear the brunt of our first teaching barrage.

The class appears bright, alive - absent here the problem of reticence - in fact one child considers our presence to mean auxiliary rear-guard discipline!

Ting-a-ling - the primary teacher's bell! Our reaction is instantaneous - we sit clasping our hands behind our backs. Habit of years before functions again.

Roll call - "Present, Miss," pipes one child after another in all the notes of the scale.

"Has each boy brought his ten cents?" asks the teacher. "Henry, what about you?"

"Oh! Heavenly mike!" exclaims Henry, "I forgot mine!"

The first days, invaluable in teacher training, become priceless as memory revives in two Normalites, who enter again the realm of childhood - hearing once more the tales of Jack Frost - one youngster claimed to have actually seen him painting. The play of elves and fairies, and then seeing anew the way of charm as each little gentleman of the primary requested the pleasure of and escorted his chosen lady on Friday afternoon excursion to Beacon Hill Park.

- B.E.B.

UVIC ARCHIVES
(sc)
LB1997
V5P7
1938

THIS NAME - "NORMAL SCHOOL" -

Long enough has the institution, wherein fifty-nine prospective teachers are being trained, in this year, 1938-39, existed under the meaningless non-descriptive, anomalous term - "Normal School!"

That members of the faculty, who bear university degrees, who have served many years as principals, inspectors or specialized instructors should still be called school teachers, is inconsistent - incongruous.

That members of the student body, who have run the whole gamut - elementary, junior and senior schools and first year college are still designated "school kids" is inappropiate, incorrect.

That from within the institution should arise the determination to bring before the proper authorities the desirability of finding a new name that is appropriate, descriptive and dignified is pertinent.

Therefore -- action!

SUMMARY

If it's not a general aim
It's bound to be specific
The value that they lay on its
Importance is terrific!

How we value all the skills
And fine appreciations
Guaranteed to nurture youth
And educate the nations.

On every hand, in every book
We meet with motivation
A million things are all linked up
In one grand integration!

- Lorna Castley.